



Best Practice Case Study

Bentley High Street Primary School, Doncaster

Tackling Boys' Low Aspirations through Local Voices

At Bentley High Street Primary School in Doncaster, Headteacher Rebecca Austwick had identified issues with boys' underachievement and low aspirations within the community and wanted to use a Primary Futures activity to highlight jobs that were accessible within their local community context.

The Primary Futures portal was used to engage a Police Inspector, a Flights Standards Officer at the Civil Aviation Authority and a managing director within the builders merchants and construction industry to speak to children. The volunteers explained their jobs with photographs to illustrate. The Police Officer had previously worked at the police station in Bentley and the Flights Standards Officer had trained to be a pilot at RAF Finningley and supervised the Finningley Air Show, so they both highlighted their local connections, and the third volunteer spoke about a large plastic pipe supplier based in Doncaster. They all emphasised their jobs' involvement with people's safety and wellbeing and advised children to be inquisitive, work hard and give everything a go. Children commented that they learnt "that having a dangerous job can be really fun", "never give up", "that all jobs are important".

Despite the activity having to pivot to home learning at the last minute with the third national lockdown, the Headteacher said the impact was clear.

"We were very fortunate to be able to have Primary Futures....the careers featured were engaging and perfectly matched to our context. Despite children accessing this remotely, pupils were hooked and inspired. They were given first-hand insight into varied careers and industries and were given the time to explore this in a supportive, fun forum...Feedback has been excellent, and this has been from parents too, who were also able to watch alongside their children at home. The assembly has inspired further learning and has energised the ambition of some of our hard-to-reach pupils." Rebecca Austwick, Headteacher, Bentley High Street Primary

While virtual activities enable children to hear from volunteers across the country beaming into their classrooms, at Bentley the benefit has been keeping local voices and relatable role models at the heart of raising aspirations.

Education and Employers We will start shortly! primary futures

While you're waiting... we need your help!
Can you think of a job for each letter of the alphabet?
I've done 'A' to get you started!

www.primaryfutures.org